products by having a sobering impact on imports. The imports of cement do not show any unusual trends.

Government is, however determined to ensure full protection to the domestic industry against unfair trade practices adopted by the foreign companies, if any, under the existing laws as and when any such practices are brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities by the affected companies.

Removal of quantitative restrictions on imports

1570. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian markets are slowly but stradily likely to be flooded with consumer goods like TVs, washing machined, sewing machines etc. from China and South Eastern countries in view of the projected removal of quantitative restrictions on imports after 1st April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any firm assessment has been made of the market conditions; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to stall the process of excessive dumping?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group on 28.7.2000 under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary to assess the likely impact of impending removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures. The Group is expected to make its recommendations before the end of the year.

Once import restrictions are removed, imports may take place from any country of the world including China and other South-East-Asian Countries. However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders regulations, technical specifications and environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. For

the protection of domestic industry, the Government can, if the situation so warrants, utilize the mechanism of raising the applied tariffs within the bound rates, if such a gap exists and take measures such as Anti-dumping action, countervailing duties and safeguard actions. The imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through the appropriate use of the above mechanisms, that imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic producers.

Anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese Coke

1571. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT) has reconfirmed anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese coke after the anti-dumping authorities has imposed the duty;

(b) whether Government have exempted the blast furnance based users/industries from this;

(c) whether Government are considering any appropriate measures for industries not using the blast furnance route where the units will have to import low phosphorous met coke which is not available indigenously;

(d) whether there will be any financial burden on Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir;

(b) Government have exempted the blast furnance based users/ Industries from this;

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government;

(d) and (e) Do not arise.